



Brownfields 2017 Job Training Grant Fact Sheet

Earth Conservancy, Scranton/Wilkes-Barre/Hazleton Metropolitan Area, PA

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. In 2002, the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act was passed to help states and communities around the country cleanup and revitalize brownfields sites. Under this law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training grant funds are provided to nonprofit organizations and other eligible entities to recruit, train, and place residents from solid and hazardous waste-impacted communities, including low-income and minority, unemployed, and underemployed individuals. To date, EPA has funded 274 job training grants totaling over \$57 million through the Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training program. As of May 2017, more than 16,300 individuals have completed training, and of those, almost 12,000 have obtained employment in the environmental field, an average starting wage of over \$14 an hour. This equates to a cumulative placement rate of approximately 73% since the program was created in 1998.

Job Training Grant

\$200,000.00

EPA has selected the Earth Conservancy for an Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training grant. The Earth Conservancy plans to train 40 students and place at least 35 graduates in environmental jobs. The core training program includes 218 hours of instruction in 40-hour HAZWOPER, OSHA 10-hour construction safety, first aid/CPR/AED, introduction to brownfields, AutoCAD-level I, surveying field assistant, basic land surveying techniques, GIS for resource conservation, and terrestrial laser scanning. Participants who complete the training program will earn three federal certifications. The Earth Conservancy is targeting unemployed and underemployed individuals, with a special emphasis on veterans, in the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre/Hazleton metropolitan area. Key partners include Pennsylvania State University-Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne/Schuylkill Workforce Investment Board, Lackawanna County and Pocono County Workforce Development Boards, Northern Tier Regional Planning Development Commission, Employment Opportunity Training Center, Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation, and Penn Eastern Engineers LLC.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields Web site (<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields>).

EPA Region 3 Brownfields Team
(215) 814-3129
EPA Region 3 Brownfields Web site
(<https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-and-land-revitalization-delaware-mariland-pennsylvania-virginia-west>)

Grant Recipient: Earth Conservancy, PA
(570) 823-3445

The information presented in this fact sheet comes from the grant proposal; EPA cannot attest to the accuracy of this information. The cooperative agreement for the grant has not yet been negotiated. Therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.